COMIC SHOP NEWS™

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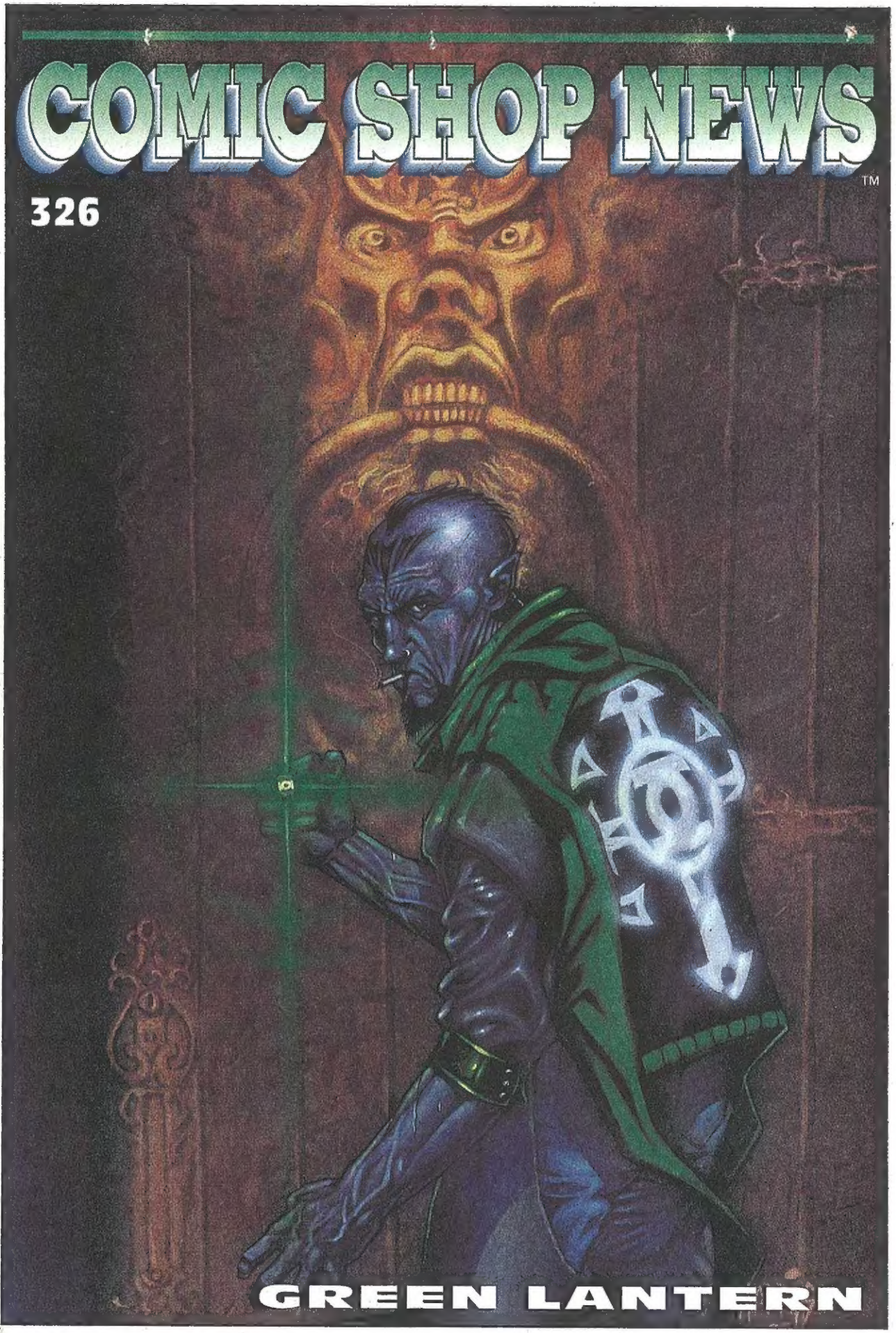


Green Lantern Quarterly ™& ©1993 DC Comics, ARR.

The New Color of Halloween is Green

The concept of the Green Lantern Corps is strongly rooted in science fiction, not horror—but ***Green Lantern Corps Quarterly #7*** presents a rare venture into the macabre with a selection of Halloween-tinged stories starring both old and new Green Lanterns.

"Ashes to Ashes," written by Ron Marz and illustrated by Tony Harris, introduces a new Green Lantern to the Corps—a Green Lantern who uses his power to track down and eliminate vampires.

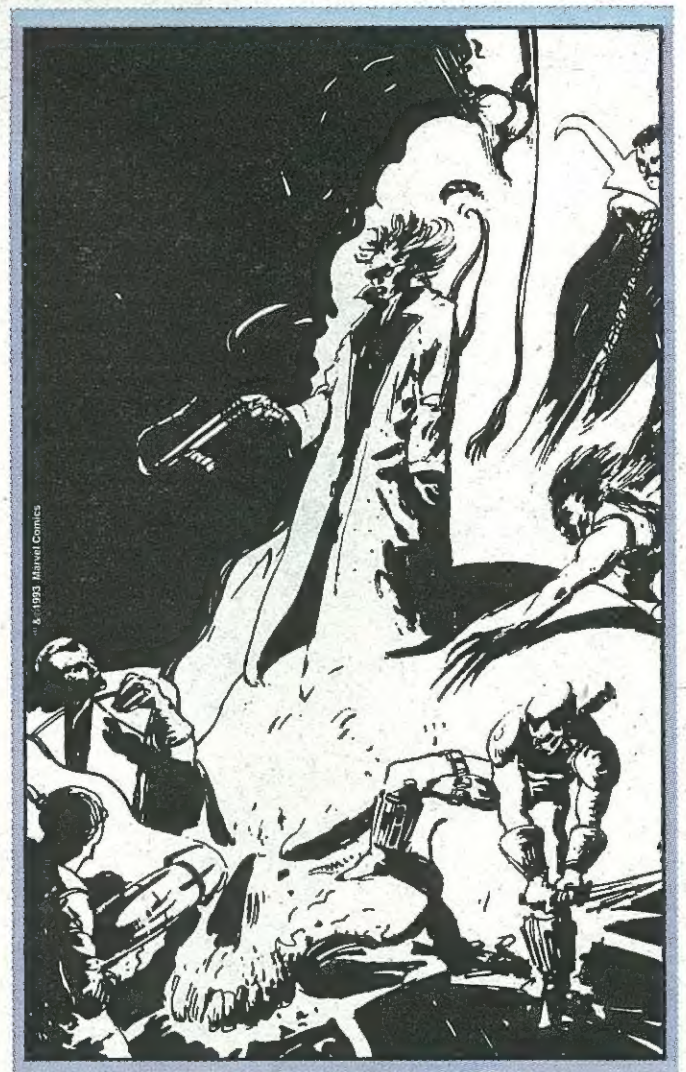
"Triumph of Will" features an obsessed Green Lantern who is determined to totally eradicate a yellow alien race; the only hope the aliens have comes from beyond the grave. This story is the first comic book work by John Skipp and Craig Spector, acclaimed horror-splatterpunk authors best known for their novel ***The Scream***; Matt Jorgensen and Wade Grawbadger supply the art.

"Horrors," a tale by Ron Marz with art by Tim Vigil and Tony Harris, offers a look back at the early days of the Guardians as they battle the forces of magic created by the new Alan Scott.

Are Green Lanterns totally without fear? That concept is tested when Alan Scott and torquemada face the Starheart, whose dark mystical power threatens the very universe in a story by Ron Marz and Mark Tenney. Torquemada also appears along with Jade and Obsidian in a story by Ron Marz, Darryl Banks, and Terry Austin.

Green Lantern Corps Quarterly #7, a $2.95 comic, is scheduled for October 21st release—just in time to help get its readers in the Halloween mood.

by CLIFF BIGGERS



Shedding Light on the Midnight Sons

Last year, Marvel debuted several new horror series in a multi-book "Rise of the Midnight Sons" storyline. This fall, the Midnight Sons' rise continues as the various books that comprise this interrelated series of titles split off to form their own Marvel sub-universe, complete with their own Midnight Sons imprint.

"Each of the sons titles will be bestowed with a brand new trade dress and an icon establishing it as a member of the Midnight Sons Universe," Marvel's Kevin Tang said. The new imprint will kick off with a massive seventeen-part storyline, "The Siege of Darkness," that begins in ***Nightstalkers #14*** and continues into ***Ghost Rider #s 44*** & ***45***; ***Darkhold #s 15*** & ***16***; ***Morbius #s 16*** & ***17***; ***Nightstalkers #15***; ***Spirits of Vengeance #s 17*** & ***18***; ***Dr. Strange #s 60*** & ***61***; and ***Marvel Comics Presents #s 143, 144, 145,*** & ***146***. Additionally, ***Spectacular Spider-Man #s 207*** & ***208*** and ***Silver Sable #19*** (which are not part of the Midnight Sons imprint) will tie in with the storyline. This series will pit the Midnight Sons against Zarathos, Lilith, and the Lilin in a battle that will ultimately lead to the death of a Midnight Son. This storyline will also mark the refocus of ***Dr. Strange*** from a mainstream Marvel Universe superhero title to a member of the Midnight Sons line.

In conjunction with "Siege of Darkness," Marvel is also producing a special ***Ghost Rider & the Midnight Sons Magazine*** that previews the seventeen-part storyline as well as additional upcoming happenings in the Midnight Sons line. ***Ghost Rider & the Midnight Sons Magazine,*** a 48-page $3.95 book, is scheduled for October 7th release.

Another title in the Midnight Sons imprint, ***Blaze,*** debuts the same month that "Siege of Darkness" premieres, although the series actually takes place after the events depicted in that story arc. Written by Howard Mackie and illustrated by Ron Wagner, the four-issue limited series pits John Blaze against a new villain who will soon play a major role in the Midnight Sons Universe. As Blaze struggles to save those he loves, he becomes his own worst enemy as "the supernatural magnet aspect of Blaze's nature is amplified, drawing magical menaces from every corner of the universe at them," Kevin Tang said. "Along the way, John and clarqa learn more about the Brood. Are these enigmatic creatures friends, foes, or what?" ***Blaze #1***, a $1.75 comic, is scheduled for October 21st release.

In the aftermath of "Siege of Darkness," the monthly ***Darkhold*** title will come to an end, although the cast of that book will continue to play a part in the Midnight Sons sub-universe.

"Siege of Darkness" begins on October 7th with the release of ***Nightstalkers #14,*** a $1.75 comic by Steven Grant, Andrew Wildman, and Frank Turner; the storyline continues through the October and November Midnight Sons titles.

by KIM B. PEARSON

Dark Horse Casts An Impressive Shadow

If there's any hero whose exploits epitomize the 1930's, it's The Shadow. The hero of hundreds of pulp adventures written by Walter Gibson and others, the Shadow's dark, mysterious nature seems inextricably bound with the dark underside of the 1930's art-deco society.

Comics publishers experimented from time to time with updating the Shadow's adventures to the present, but the most successful Shadow comics adventures have been set in the era that gave birth to the hero. And now a new Shadow publisher, Dark Horse, is ready to take readers back to New York City of the 1930's, where an unseen murderer is killing his victims in horrible ways... and only the Shadow seems to have any hope of identifying the killer and stopping his grisly murder spree.

The Shadow: In the Coils of the Leviathan is the first new Shadow series from Dark Horse, who has added ***The Shadow*** to their successful line of licensed comics. To capture the appeal of the mysterious hero, they've called on a creator who is closely associated with the Shadow's successful 1970's DC Comics run: Mike Kaluta. This time around, Kaluta isn't handling the art honors, though; instead, he's writing the Shadow's exploits in conjunction with Joel Gross. The artwork for the series is supplied by Gary Gianni—although Kaluta couldn't pass on the opportunity to paint a new Shadow cover and interior poster for the first issue.

The Shadow: In the Coils of the Leviathan #1, the $2.95 premiere of the four-issue bimonthly limited series, is scheduled for October 28th release.

by WAYNE LEE

COMIC SHOP NEWS
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Plasmer: A New Marvel Book That's Full of Mullarkey

Torn between two equally appealing choices, all of us have probably wished we were more than one person at one time or another. For Oonagh Mullarkey, that wish is fulfilled in ***Plasmer,*** a new four-issue limited series from Marvel UK. Mullarkey splits herself into separate beings... but they're not all good guys. When her evil persona unleashes three killer robots, it's up to her good side, Plasmer, to shut them down. ***Plasmer #1,*** written by *Glenn Dakin* and illustrated by *Pascual Ferry,* is scheduled for September 30th release.

Bloodlines Nears the End of the Line

DC's annual megacrossover series Bloodlines is rapidly nearing an end, but there are still a few more superpowered beings to be introduced. ***Demon Annual #3***, a September 16th release by *Ennis* and *McCrea*, depicts mob assassin Tommy Monaghan's transformation into the supervillain Hitman. ***Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight Annual #3***, a September 23rd release by *O'Neil* and *Manley* starring the Azrael Batman, introduces the complex and paradoxical Cardinal Sin and Samaritan (one possesses the power of death, while the other has the power to heal). ***Team Titans Annual #1***, a September 30th release by *Wolfman* and *Nichols*, debuts Chimera, a teenage girl who gains the power to create bizarre and nightmarish images with her mind. And finally, ***LEGION '93 Annual #4,*** an October 7th release by *Waid* and *McKone*, premieres the cosmic prophet Pax. From here, the action continues into ***Bloodbath Special #s 1*** and ***2***, both slated for October release; these books wrap up the Bloodlines story arc and pave the way for some of these new heroes to move into an active role in the DC Universe in '94.

Runnning Joke: a Second Lap For Ren & Stimpy

Running Joke was the title originally announced for the first ***Ren & Stimpy*** trade paperback, reprinting ***Ren & Stimpy #s 1-4***—but now that title has been changed to ***Pick of the Litter,*** and ***Running Joke*** is the name given to the *second* ***Ren & Stimpy*** trade paperback. Got that?

Ren & Stimpy: Running Joke reprints ***Ren & Stimpy #s 5-8,*** adding bonus material not found anywhere else. The trade paperback includes, among other issues, the mega-selling story guest-starring Spider-Man (no foolin'!). *Dan Slott* and ***Mike Kazaleh*** have captured the irreverent essence of the hit animated series in the monthly comic—which must be why it keeps selling out, issue after issue. ***Ren & Stimpy: Running Joke,*** a 96-page $12.95 trade paperback, is scheduled for September 23rd release.

Star Wars: An Old Hope

Four thousand years before ***Star Wars: A New Hope,*** the Jedi Knights were the most powerful, respected force in the galaxy. They stood between the innocent civilizations they protected and the Dark Side of the Force that threatened to engulf the Republic. Like the medieval knights, their gallantry and their heroism served as an example and an inspiration for all who knew them.

Star Wars fans have seen very little of the glory days of the Jedi Knights thus far, but ***Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi*** will soon remedy that. This five-issue limited series by *Tom Veitch, Chris Gossett,* and *Mike Barreiro* follows a young Jedi-Knight-in-training, Ulic Qel-Droma, whose first mission just may be his last... With the renewed interest in all things Star Wars in light of a new film series and a new novel trilogy, ***Tales of the Jedi*** is almost certain to duplicate the phenomenal appeal of the original Dark Horse ***Star Wars*** limited series. ***Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi #1,*** a $2.50 comic, is scheduled for October 21st release.

A Must-Have For Kaluta Kollectors

For over two decades, *Michael Kaluta* has produced some of the most exciting and stylish artwork in comics, earning him a reputation as one of the field's premiere illustrators. This September, Kitchen Sink Press will make it possible for Kaluta's many fans to enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at his artwork in a 96-page sketchbook that will feature 32 pages in full color.

According to Kitchen Sink, "The collection is selected from Michael Kaluta's cache of 9" x 12" blackbound sketchbooks, which he kept regularly from 1972-1982, and somewhat irregularly thereafter.... The ***Kaluta Sketchbook*** features painting and drawings ranging from entrancing medieval fantasy landscapes to preliminary sketches for projects such as ***Starstruck,*** *Robert E. Howard*'s ***The Lost Valley of Iskander*** and ***The Swords of Shahrazar,*** *Thea Von Harbau*'s ***Metropolis,*** and *Harry Harrison*'s ***Bill, The Galactic Hero.***"

The Michael Wm Kaluta Sketchbook, a $9.95 trade paperback, is scheduled for late September release.

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Bruce Wayne's Pretty Animated For a Guy With a Bad Back...

Bruce Wayne is having a pretty rough time in the pages of Batman and Detective—but things are going quite while for him on the Fox Children's Network. Fox and Warner Bros. Animation have announced a three-year agreement that extends the run of the Emmy Award-winning ***Batman: The Animated Series*** on Fox through the 1996-1997 television season. Warner has committed millions of dollars to produce new episodes of the series.

"Fox Children's Network is very excited about extending the highly successful run of ***Batman: The Animated Series,***" *Margaret Loesch*, President of Fox Children's Network, said. "With Warner's commitment to quality production and FCN's dominance in the marketplace, we are confident that ***Batman*** will continue to be a winner."

"We have taken great pride in the production of this critically acclaimed series and are thrilled that it will continue to have a life on Fox Children's Network," *Jean MacCurdy*, President of Warner Bros. Animation, said.

In the meantime, while Bruce Wayne may be out of the Batman costume for a while in the pages of ***Batman, Detective,*** and ***Batman: Shadow of the Bat,*** he'll continue to don the cape and cowl in the monthly ***Batman Adventures*** comic, the companion book to the successful animated series.

BATMAN™

KNIGHTFALL

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This Guy's Not Clowning Around

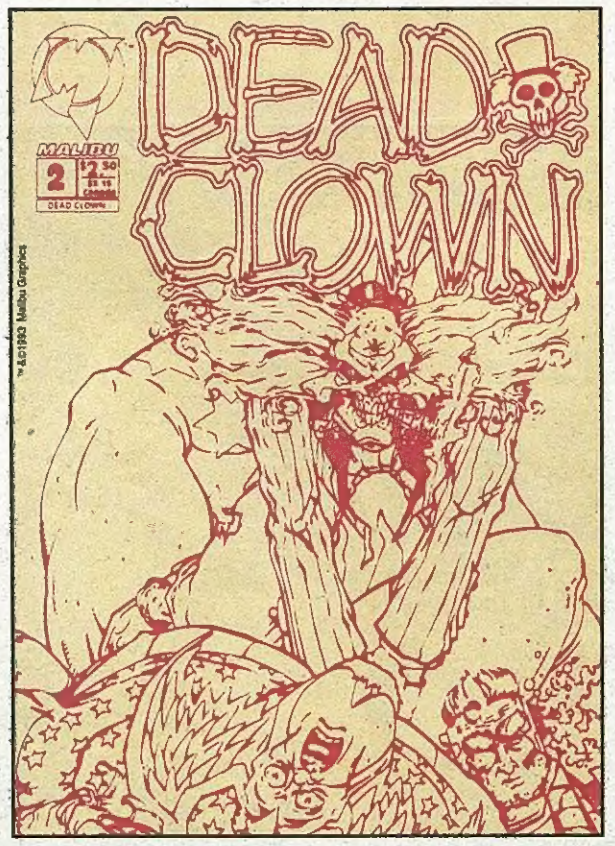
Death as a career move—that could be the story of JoJo the Clown's life.... or, more precisely, his death. When an experiment goes awry, JoJo the Clown becomes Ghastly the Dead Clown, a sepulchral version of his cheery original self. The change in Ghastly's life (so to speak) has also brought about a change in his tastes; now he's much less interested in looking like a typical clown and much more interested in gore and mayhem.

Initially, Petro Global Entertainment makes Ghastly a comic book star—but the company is soon quite disturbed by the rather morbid change in Ghastly's personality, so they send in the super-hero team Force America to take control of the superhero. Ghastly isn't ready to go quietly, though—and his new motto is "Super-heroes must die!"

Dead Clown, a three-issue limited series by *Chris Ulm, Tom Mason, Joel Thomas,* and *Bobby Rae,* is a book that presents a rather dim view of superheroes. "With the recent glut of super-heroes, what better way to get rid of them than with a Dead Clown?" co-creator Tom Mason said.

"Ghastly is not a nice guy," Chris Ulm said. "He doesn't wear tights and fight crime. He doesn't care about the rain forests or global warming. Now that he has a second chance at life, he's going to cash in. And if that means some big-shouldered guys with small heads and capes have to pay the ultimate price, so much the better."

Dead Clown #1, a $2.50 October release from Malibu Comics, also features a special tie-in with ***Dinosaurs For Hire***, another book that often pokes fun at superheroes.



Blackmask Unmasks the Hero's Id

Dan Cady suffered horribly at the hands of a torturer in a North Korean prisoner of war camp. His tormentor wore a black executioner's hood to conceal his features; while Cady survived the torture, the image of that black mask has scarred him emotionally, leaving him incapable of decisive action... until he dons a similar mask and becomes Blackmask.

Blackmask, a three-issue prestige-format miniseries written by *Brian Augustyn* and illustrated by *Jim Baikie,* is a psychological costumed hero thriller set in the period just after the Korean War. It focuses on a victim turned hero... but within the hero hides all the hatred and cruelty originally brought to life at the hands of the torturer. When Cady returns to his hometown, he intends to make life better for its inhabitants; before his mission is over, he begins to lose control and his anger threatens to overcome his sense of justice. ***Blackmask #1***, a $4.95 comic, is scheduled for September 23rd release.

Are You Ready For a Brood-ing Ghost Rider?

Marvel's fall-release ***X-Men/Ghost Rider*** trade paperback presents a horror that even the X-Men have trouble dealing with: a Brood-transformed Ghost Rider. This 64-page bookshelf comic reprints the adventure that originally appeared in ***X-Men #s 8-9*** and ***Ghost Rider #s 26-27;*** this is the storyline that brought about the death of Belladonna, so Gambit fans will want to check it out prior to the release of the upcoming Gambit miniseries. ***X-Men/Ghost Rider*** is written by *Howard Mackie, Jim Lee,* and *Scott Lobdell* and illustrated by *Jim Lee* and *Ron Wagner;* look for the $6.95 book on September 30th.

DREAMS OF POWER
DREAMS OF THE DARK
WRITTEN BY
NEIL GAIMAN
ILLUSTRATED BY
BRYAN TALBOT
P. CRAIG RUSSELL
SHAWN MCMANUS
JOHN WATKISS
STAN WOCH
JILL THOMPSON
DUNCAN EAGLESON
KENT WILLIAMS
MARK BUCKINGHAM
VINCE LOCKE AND
DICK GIORDANO
INTRODUCTION BY
GENE WOLFE
COVER AND
BOOK DESIGN BY
DAVE MCKEAN
Nine short stories from the acclaimed, multi-award-winning SANDMAN series that will take you beyond your wildest dreams.
FOLLOW THE LORD OF DREAMS FROM THE MISTS OF THE PAST TO THE NIGHTMARES OF THE PRESENT AS HE TOUCHES THE LIVES OF KINGS AND RAVENS, ACTORS AND EXPLORERS, STORYTELLERS, WEREWOLVES AND CHILDREN...
THE SANDMAN
THE
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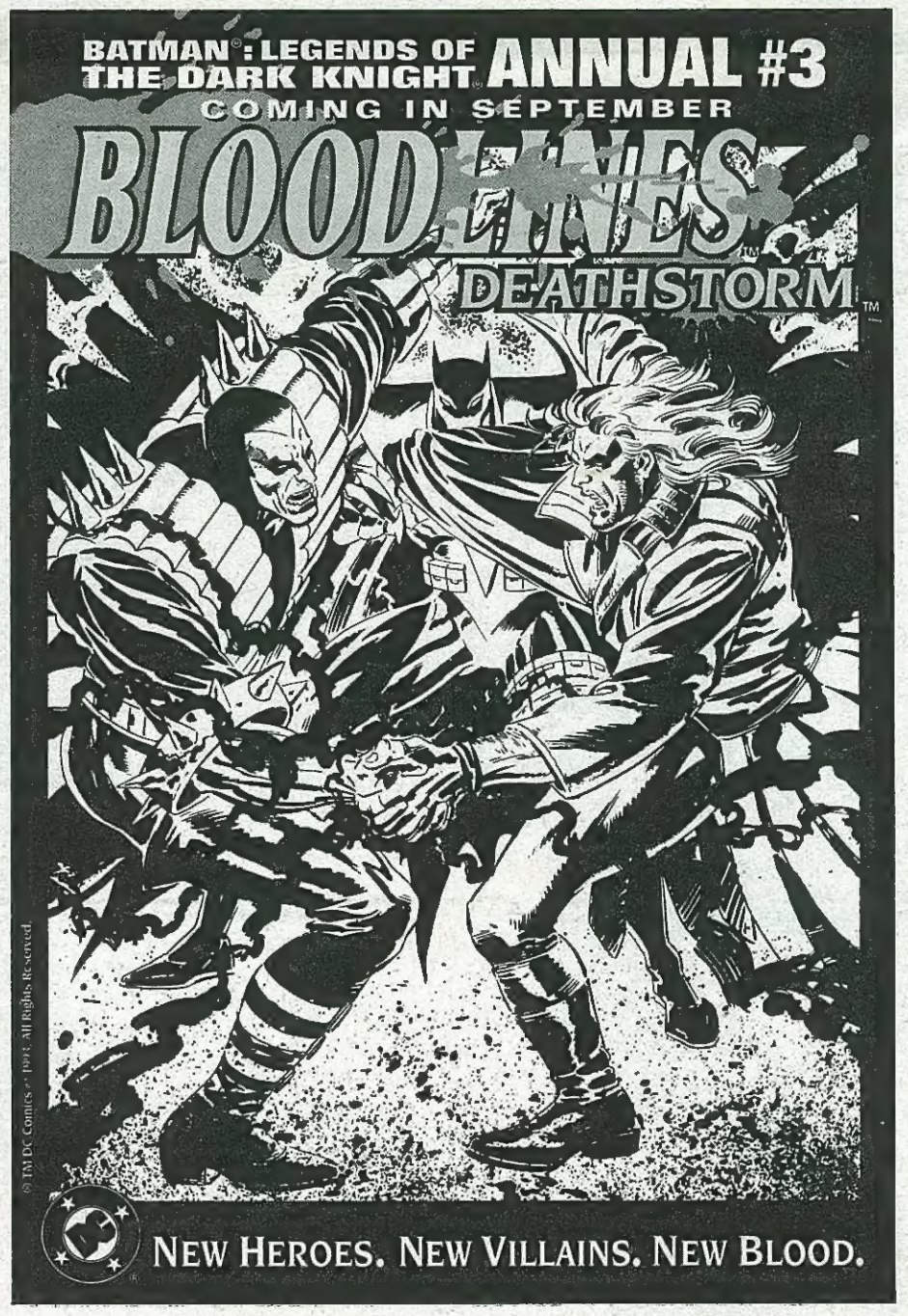
BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT ANNUAL #3
COMING IN SEPTEMBER
BLOOD LINES
DEATHSTORM
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NEW HEROES. NEW VILLAINS. NEW BLOOD.

Casting Call For 7 Fresh DEFIANT™ Faces!

The Search Is On...Are You A Superhero?

Who may enter...

DEFIANT is searching for seven good guys and gals, 8 to 16 years of age (as of October 15th), to be cast as The Good Guys, a new team of superheroes debuting in their own DEFIANT comic book and trading card set in November 1993.

What you can win...

Each winner cast in a Good Guys role will receive $1,000 cash and a trip for two (including a parent or guardian) to Anaheim, California. There, at a special Good Guys appearance at the Mile High Comics Megastore on Saturday, November 27th, an extradimensional quantum "wish bomb" will transform them into the seven superhero stars of DEFIANT's hot upcoming monthly title "The Good Guys." The winners will also receive a contract with DEFIANT guaranteeing a royalty for the use of their names and likenesses. Finally, each winner will be treated to a day at Disneyland as DEFIANT's guests.

How to enter...

To answer "The Good Guys" Casting Call, submit a recent, clear, color head-shot photograph of yourself with one of the following two items: **1)** Type or neatly hand print an essay of 100 words or less, telling Jim Shooter and The Good Guys creative team about the superhero that you dream of being and why. **2)** Or submit a drawing (or a series of drawings), in a 6 1/4" X 9 1/4" space, that shows the judges the superhero you dream of being. See your participating retailer or *Wizard* magazine for your official entry form. Complete contest rules are printed on the form. Deadline for submissions is October 1st. Winners will be chosen October 15th and announced in the November issue of *Wizard*.

TM

TM

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RULES FOR THE GOOD GUYS CASTING CALL CONTEST

1. Each entry form must include a clear, color head shot of the entrant with one of the following two items:

   a. A typed or printed essay of 100 words or less about why the entrant wants to be a superhero and what he or she believes a superhero should be. Or

   b. In a 6 3/4" X 9 3/4" space, show the superhero you dream of being.

Entries will be judged on neatness and aptness of expression as to essays, or quality of drawing as to drawing exhibits. The judges will be Jim Shooter and *The Good Guys* creative team, whose judgement will be final.

2. All entries must be sent to:

The Good Guys
Casting Call Contest
P.O. Box 642
Bethel Park, PA 15102-0642

No entries will be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed return envelope. All entries, other than those that are returned, will be the property of Enlightened Entertainment Partners, L.P.

3. This contest is void where prohibited by law.

4. There will be seven winners who will each receive $1,000 cash and a trip for two (including a parent or guardian) to Anaheim, California. The trip will include round-trip transportation and two nights at a hotel in Anaheim. In addition, each winner will receive a contract guaranteeing a royalty for the use of his or her name and likeness, and each winner will be the guest of DEFIANT for a day at Disneyland. There will be no cash substitute for prizes, and each winner will be responsible for his or her own taxes that may be applicable.

5. Winners will be notified by phone and by mail on or before October 15, 1993 and must accept or reject the prize prior to October 18, 1993.

6. A parent or guardian of each entrant must certify on the entry that the drawing or essay is original and has been executed solely by the entrant and that the entrant's age as of October 15,1993 is no less than 8 years old nor more than 16 years old. This contest is open only to residents of the United States, its territories and possessions, and Canada. Each winner and his or her parent or guardian, will have to execute an affidavit that the person is eligible to enter the contest to accept the prize and that he or she is in compliance with the other rules of this contest. Furthermore, the winner and the parent or guardian accompanying each winner will, as a condition of receiving the prize, execute a release allowing his or her name or likeness to be used in the advertising and promotion of DEFIANT publications.

7. A complete list of winners will be available as of December 15, 1993 and will be sent to any person requesting it upon receipt of a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

8. All entries must be postmarked on or before September 30, 1993 and received by October 1, 1993. Any entries received after that date will not be considered.

9. Enlightened Entertainment Partners, L.P, its subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, employees, and advertising agencies will not be liable for any taxes, licenses, or other fees in connection with the prizes; they will not be liable for lost or stolen entries; they will not be liable for any injury to any winner or accompanying parent or guardian arising out of or occuring during the prize trip. Any claim shall be made solely with the independent travel packager who has made arrangements for the prize trip.

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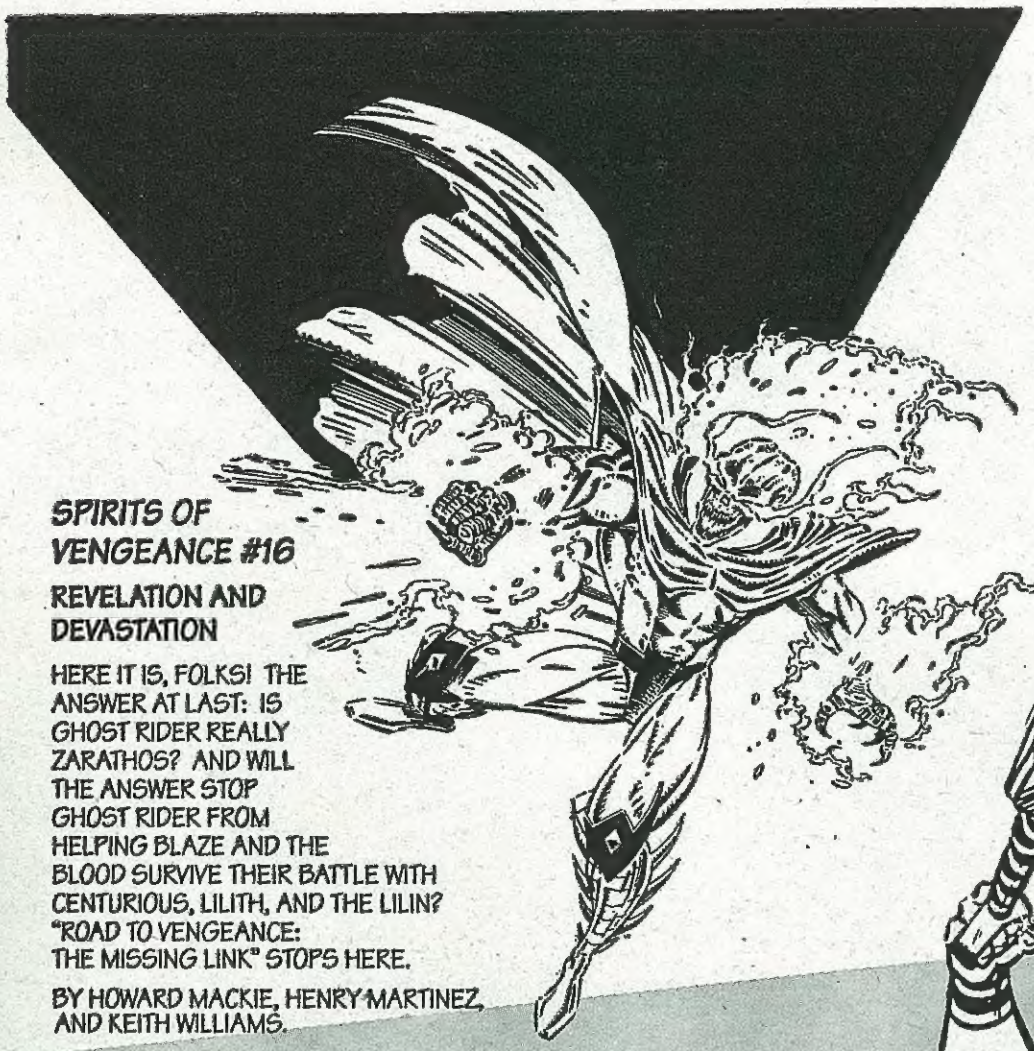
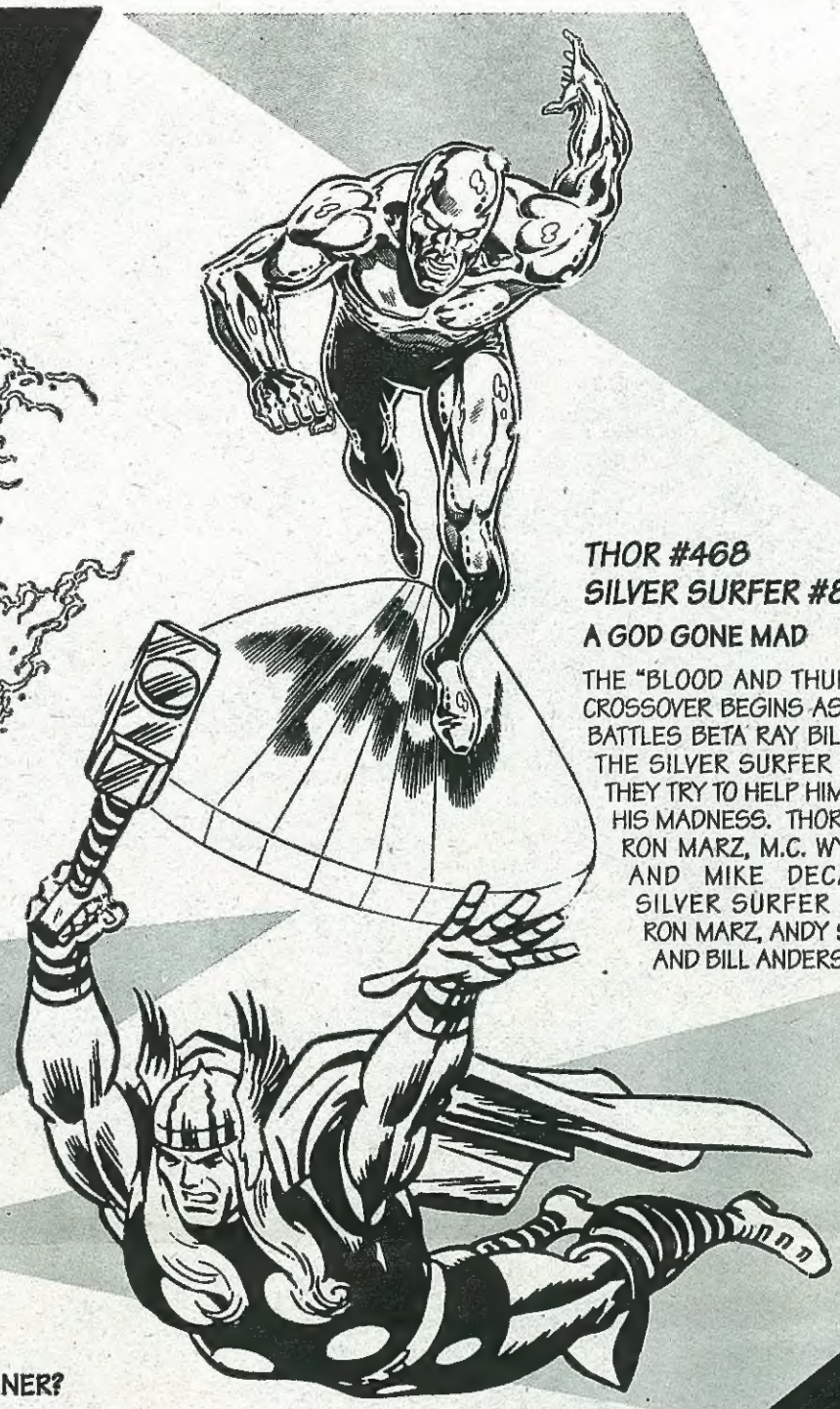


SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #16

REVELATION AND DEVASTATION

HERE IT IS, FOLKS! THE ANSWER AT LAST: IS GHOST RIDER REALLY ZARATHOS? AND WILL THE ANSWER STOP GHOST RIDER FROM HELPING BLAZE AND THE BLOOD SURVIVE THEIR BATTLE WITH CENTURIOUS, LILITH, AND THE LILIN? "ROAD TO VENGEANCE: THE MISSING LINK" STOPS HERE.

BY HOWARD MACKIE, HENRY MARTINEZ, AND KEITH WILLIAMS.



THOR #468
SILVER SURFER #86

A GOD GONE MAD

THE "BLOOD AND THUNDER" CROSSOVER BEGINS AS THOR BATTLES BETA RAY BILL AND THE SILVER SURFER WHEN THEY TRY TO HELP HIM CURE HIS MADNESS. THOR IS BY RON MARZ, M.C. WYMAN, AND MIKE DECARLO. SILVER SURFER IS BY RON MARZ, ANDY SMITH, AND BILL ANDERSON.

MARVEL COMICS

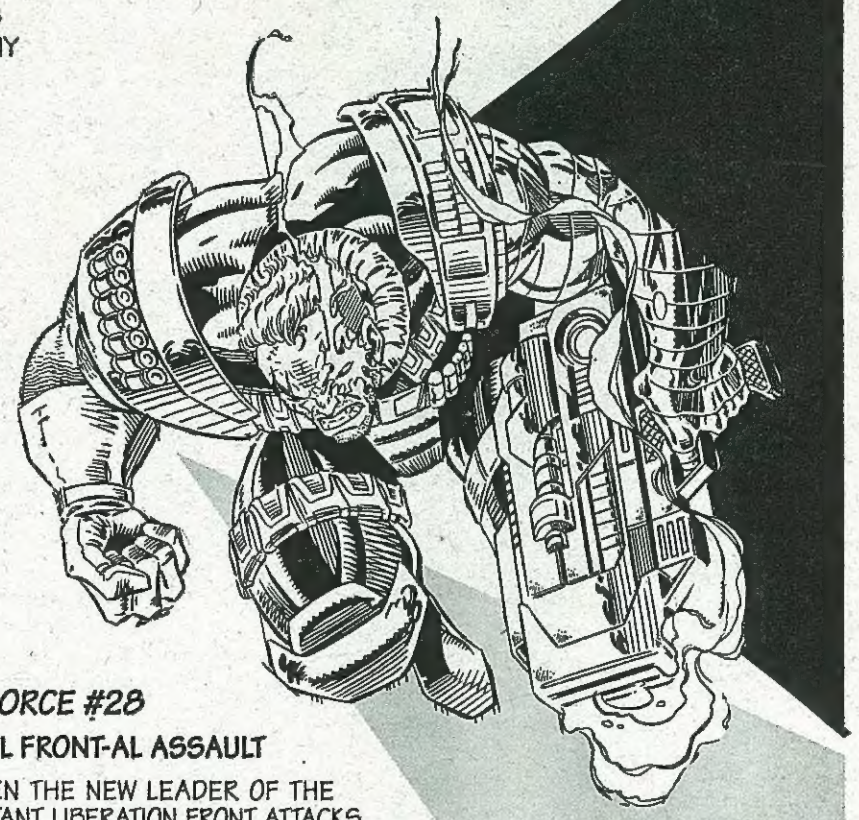
LAW™ Dog

LAWDOG #7

HI, HONEY! WHO'S FOR DINNER?

LAWDOG AND 'LINA ARE FIT TO BE FRIED WHEN THEY'RE TRAPPED BY FLESH-EATING ZOMBIES. AND THEIR DAY DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER FROM THERE! A CANNIBALISTIC CRISIS BY CHUCK DIXON, FLINT HENRY, AND JOHN STANGELAND.

Lawdog is TM & © 1993 Chuck Dixon and Flint Henry.



X-FORCE #28

FULL FRONT-AL ASSAULT

WHEN THE NEW LEADER OF THE MUTANT LIBERATION FRONT ATTACKS, THE TEAM IS CHANGED FOREVER! DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING TALE OF TERROR AND TRAGEDY BY FABIAN NICIEZA, TONY DANIEL, AND KEVIN CONRAD!

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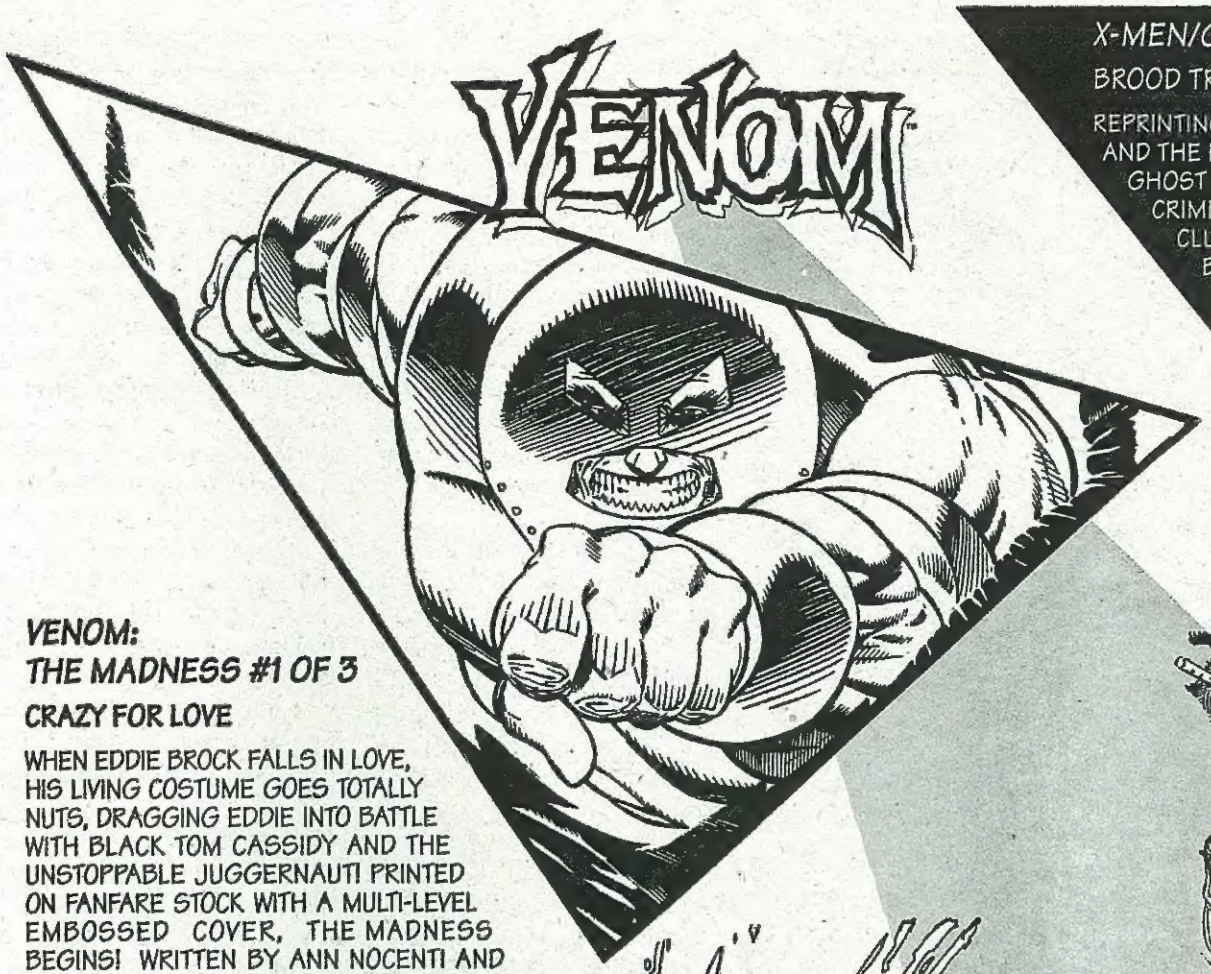


VENOM: THE MADNESS #1 OF 3

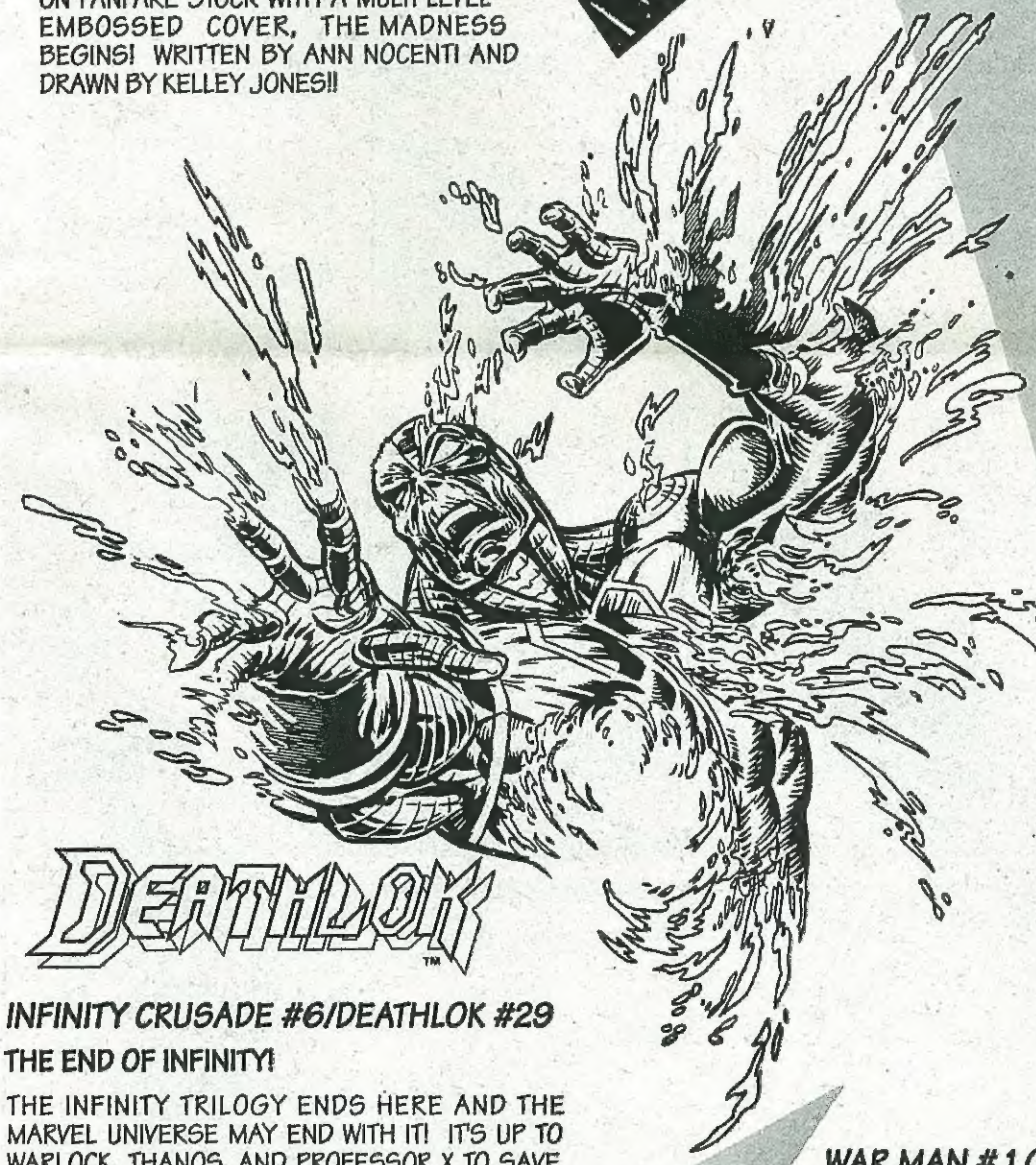
CRAZY FOR LOVE

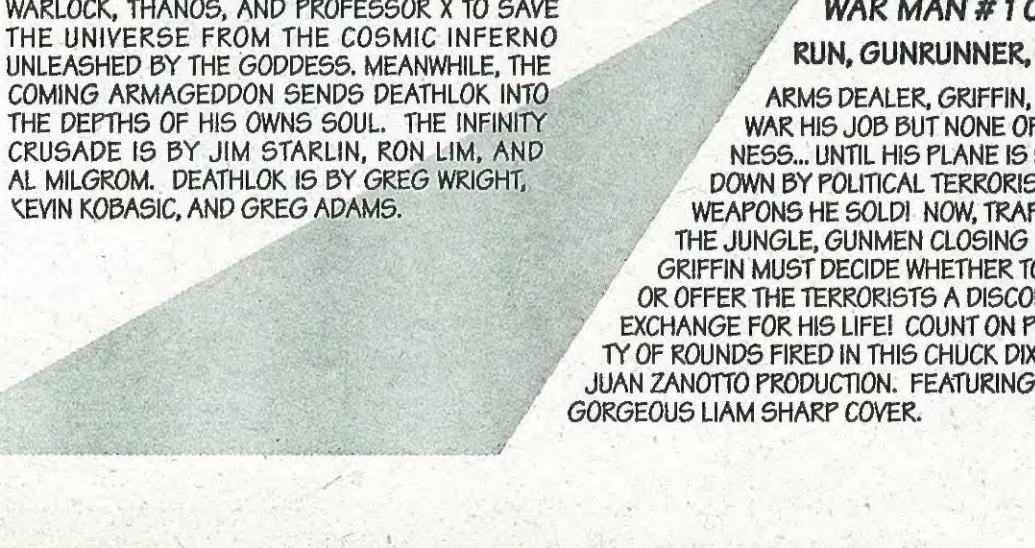
WHEN EDDIE BROCK FALLS IN LOVE, HIS LIVING COSTUME GOES TOTALLY NUTS, DRAGGING EDDIE INTO BATTLE WITH BLACK TOM CASSIDY AND THE UNSTOPPABLE JUGGERNAUT! PRINTED ON FANFARE STOCK WITH A MULTI-LEVEL EMBOSSED COVER, THE MADNESS BEGINS! WRITTEN BY ANN NOCENTI AND DRAWN BY KELLEY JONES!!

X-MEN/GHOST RIDER BOOKSHELF COMIC

BROOD TROUBLE IN THE BIG EASY

REPRINTING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MERRY MUTANTS AND THE NEW BLAZING BIKER FROM X-MEN #8,9 AND GHOST RIDER #26,27. WHILE CHASING A MURDEROUS CRIMINAL IN NEW ORLEANS, GHOST RIDER LANDS IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE ALIEN BROOD! THE X-MEN AND GAMBIT'S WIFE, BELLADONNA, ARRIVE ON THE SCENE, ONLY TO FIND A BROOD-TRANSFORMED GHOST RIDER WAITING FOR THEM! NEW COVER BY RON WAGNER. 64 PAGES.





INFINITY CRUSADE #6/DEATHLOK #29

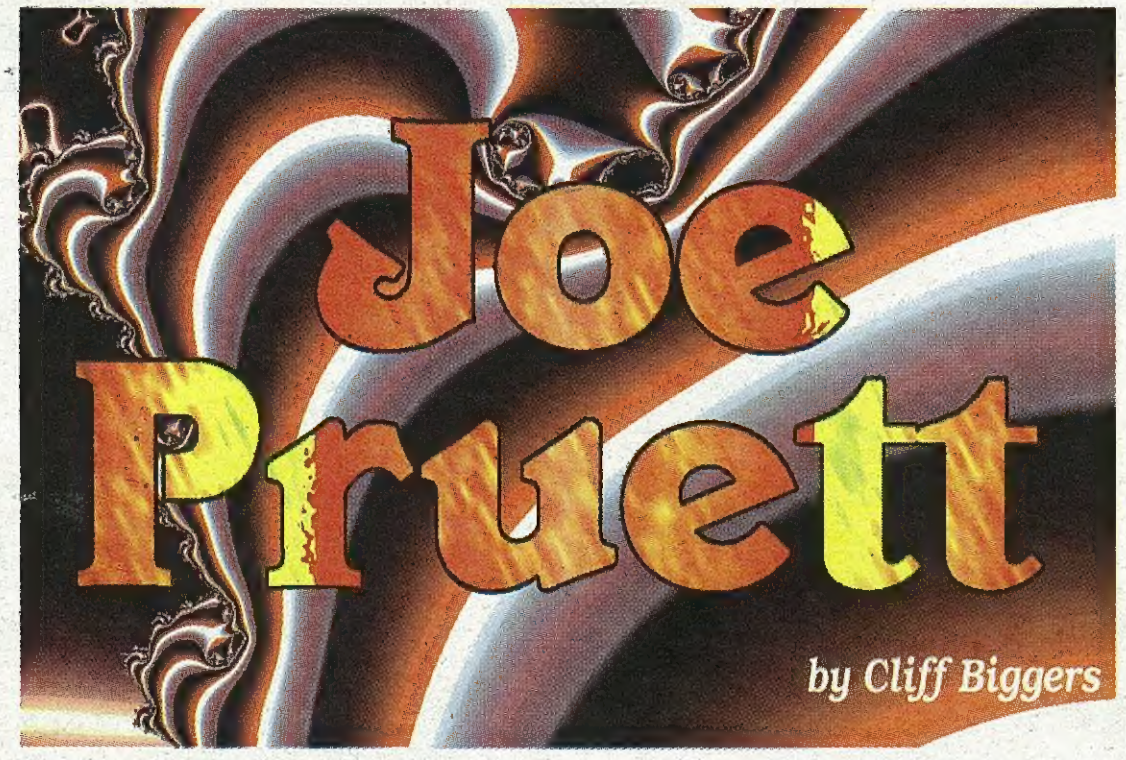
THE END OF INFINITY!

THE INFINITY TRILOGY ENDS HERE AND THE MARVEL UNIVERSE MAY END WITH IT! IT'S UP TO WARLOCK, THANOS, AND PROFESSOR X TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE FROM THE COSMIC INFERNO UNLEASHED BY THE GODDESS. MEANWHILE, THE COMING ARMAGEDDON SENDS DEATHLOK INTO THE DEPTHS OF HIS OWNS SOUL. THE INFINITY CRUSADE IS BY JIM STARLIN, RON LIM, AND AL MILGROM. DEATHLOK IS BY GREG WRIGHT, KEVIN KOBASIC, AND GREG ADAMS.

WAR MAN # 1 OF 2

RUN, GUNRUNNER, RUN!

ARMS DEALER, GRIFFIN, MAKES WAR HIS JOB BUT NONE OF HIS BUSINESS... UNTIL HIS PLANE IS SHOT DOWN BY POLITICAL TERRORISTS USING WEAPONS HE SOLD! NOW, TRAPPED IN THE JUNGLE, GUNMEN CLOSING IN, GRIFFIN MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO FIGHT OR OFFER THE TERRORISTS A DISCOUNT IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS LIFE! COUNT ON PLENTY OF ROUNDS FIRED IN THIS CHUCK DIXON, JUAN ZANOTTO PRODUCTION. FEATURING A GORGEOUS LIAM SHARP COVER.



At a time when the comic market is dominated by superhero books, new universes, and the like, Joe Pruett took the road less travelled by: he decided (along with James Pruett and Charles Moore) to offer a monthly anthology book, Negative Burn, that offered virtually anything but superhero stories. Unlike many of the anthology titles in the comics field right now, his book attracted not only newcomers but established creators—and there are many more big names on the lineup for upcoming issues. At the same time, Joe is working on his own series, a dark fantasy title called Kilroy. In a recent conversation with CSN, Joe talked about both books, as well as other projects.

How did Negative Burn come about?

Negative Burn came about when I was writing ***Kilroy*** and it was *not* coming out. I needed something to occupy my time, so I hooked up with my brother Jim and Charles Moore, and we decided to do an anthology. Originally it was going to be a one-shot, but all of the sudden we started getting several people interested in doing material for the book; then as the material began coming in, we started thinking about doing it bi-monthly.Before the first issue came out, though, we said, "Hey, we've got a lot of material here. Let's make it monthly and see what happens.." After that, the big names just started falling into place; it really surprised me that it was as easy as it was.

I got Brian Bolland in January, when I went to the Greenberg show in New York; we knew that were going to do the ***Negative Burn*** thing, and I was sitting next to him at dinner, and I decided to ask him if there was anything we might want to do with us. He offered us ***Mr. Mamoulian*** reprints—he has forty-five of them altogether—so suddenly we had Brian Bolland.

I've known Bob Burden for a number of years, so it wasn't too difficult to entice him to do a quick four-pager, so we ended up with Brian Bolland and Bob Burden in our first issue without any effort. After that, I thought, "Heck, this is pretty easy; let's see who else we can get!"

We've lined up a number of people for upcoming issues, including some pretty big names. The biggest name we've been able to line up recently is Neil Gaiman. I don't know what he's doing yet, but he will be doing something for a later issue. We're also doing a sketchbook series that gives us a chance to let readers see into the sketchbooks of some pretty major talents—and it makes it possible for them to have material in Negative Burn without having to commit to doing new work just for us. We have a lot of bigger names, including Dave Dorman, Craig Russell, Jaime Hernandez, Richard Case, Arthur Suydam, Mike Kaluta—they'll all be offering sketchbook material.

What sort of material will readers see in Negative Burn?

It's easier to tell you what you *won't* see in ***Negative Burn*** than to say what you *will* see. What you *won't* see in ***Negative Burn***, for the most part, is standard superhero material. You might see occasional semi-superhero things, but it'll be more like the Vertigo type of superhero than the standard superhero story. I really hate superhero stuff now. What you'll see in ***Negative Burn*** is, basically, anything else. I want the creators to come in and do what they want to do, what makes them happy—stuff they can't really find a place for anywhere else. They can present it here with no problem at all.

I think the market is too superhero dominated right now; a lot of people who work for ***Negative Burn*** do superheroes when they need the money, but they're adults who are pretty much burned out on standard superheroes. I know that I am. That's what makes the money in the industry right now, so they have to do it—but we give them a place to do something different, too.

People like Jeff Smith, who does ***Bone,*** have been able to avoid that; I admire them for doing what they want to do, and I'm glad that Jeff is finding his success with that. That's what I want to eventually do with myself; I don't want to have to do superheroes—I'd rather do my own sort of material and find an audience for it.

Were you ever a superhero fan?

Yeah, I was a superhero fan up through about my eleventh grade year in high school; when a comic book shop opened up in my home town of Warner Robins, I started picking up an issue of ***Cerebus*** or two, a black and white ***Nexus***—different stuff. Then, when I was about to graduate from college, I picked up ***The Flaming Carrot*** on a whim; I kept hearing that it was great, so I gave it a try. All of the sudden, I was hooked on it; I went back and bought all the back issues. Since Bob lives in Atlanta, I wrote him a letter telling him how much that I was interested in getting into comics. About a month later, he called me up and invited me up to Atlanta; he said, "You want to be my assistant?" And that's how I got into comics.

Have you been surprised by the relative success of Negative Burn?

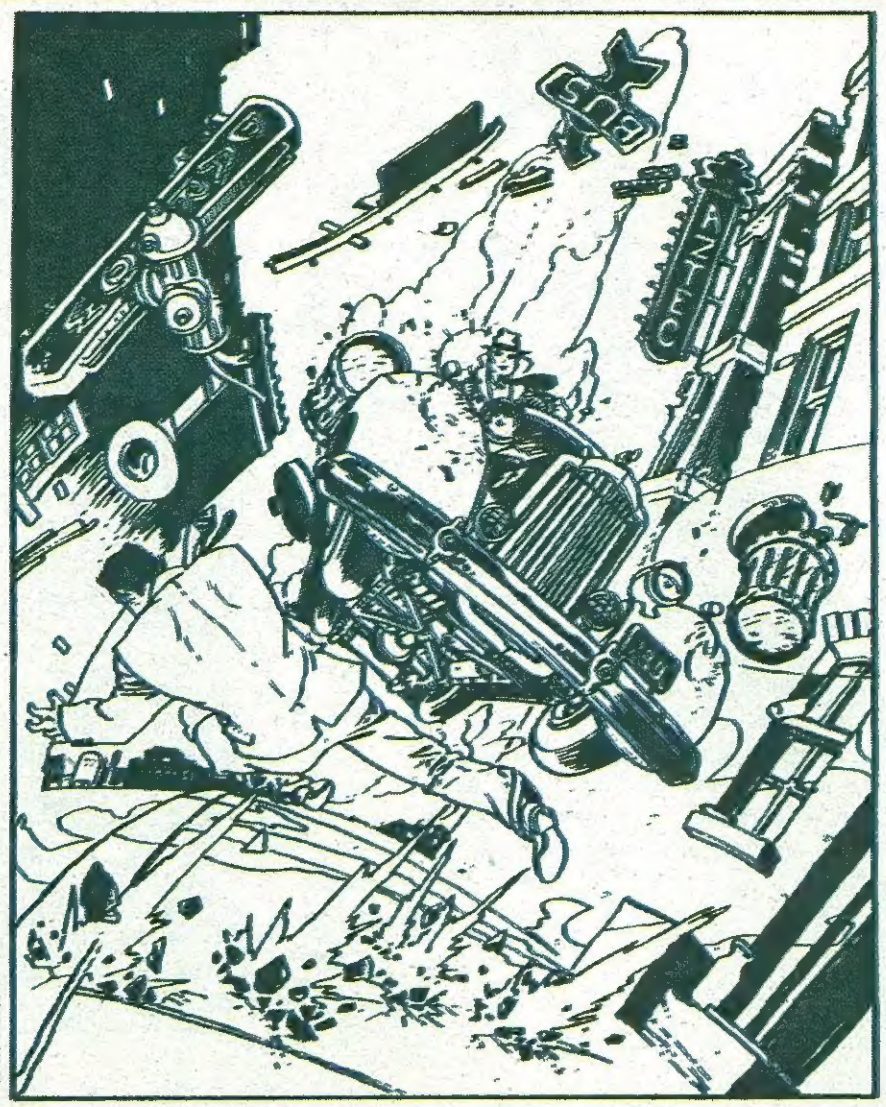
"...BOTH MY PARENTS WERE AMONG THE FIRST MURDERED."
"RELATIVES FOUND ME IN THE FRONT YARD-- IN SHOCK, SEMI-AWARE, BUT OTHERWISE UNHURT."
WHAT YA GOT THERE, BOY?
"CURIOUSLY, THEY FOUND TWO OF THE KLANSMEN LAYING FIVE YARDS AWAY FROM ME...DEAD. NO BULLET WOUNDS... NO BRUISES...JUST DEAD."
NOBODY KNOWS FOR SURE HOW MANY PEOPLE DIED HERE. ALL I KNOW IS, I LOST A LOT OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY.
™ & © 1993 Pruett & Burwell

The biggest surprise with ***Negative Burn*** is that we've gotten so many big names even though it doesn't pay any page rate up front. It basically pays a small percentage of the profits, but no one knows how much they'll make until the book is published—they know it won't be a lot of money, though. That's the greatest thing about the guys who are working on this book; they're big names, but they're doing this work because they really want to do it, not because they want to make a lot of money.

Sales have been about what I'd expect; we did all right with the first issue, but we had a drop for the second issue because no one knew what the book would look like when they ordered it. I'm hoping that the numbers will go back up with the third and fourth issues; ***Negative Burn #4*** has a pretty impressive line-up—it's a Halloween issue, so it's more of horror book than the average issue. With the caliber of creators we have lined up in the future, I hope the numbers continue to climb.

Negative Burn isn't just a book of big names; it's also a book where new creators can come in and have material featured in a book with big names like Mike Kaluta and Craig Russell Neil Gaiman. That's a big incentive for them, and it's a chance they wouldn't get.

We're aiming the book at the same mature readers that Vertigo appeals to; it's not explicitly sexual or graphically violent, but I'm not trying to go to an extreme with either. I prefer violence more if it happens off camera, if it's suggested rather than shown, for instance. Our guarantee is that no internal organs will be shown!...



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Negative Burn is an ongoing series for the foreseeable future. I have the first twelve issues outlined, and I'm soliciting for issue seven, which is already done. I have inventory already, and I have material lined up for the second year's worth of issues—Neil Gaiman, Jaime Hernandez, Evan Dorkin, they're all planned for the second year. I'm going to do them as long as I feel like doing them... and right now, that looks like it'll be a while. It'll continue in black and white; I'd like to do some color, but it's very expensive.

Describe Kilroy, your character who appeared in Negative Burn #1.

Kilroy is basically a being who has wandered throughout time and history, drawn to scenes of human suffering—war, famine, death. He might pop up at any time or place. The story in ***Negative Burn #4*** takes place in 1923; the story begins in the present, then flashes back to the past and ends in the present.

The thing I like about the character is that he lets me wander throughout history, doing whatever I feel like doing. The series itself takes place in the present—at least the first

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four issues will—but they'll flash back to other times and places.

What I want to do with the series is basically educate the public a little bit about forgotten atrocities, bring them back out in the public mind a bit. For example, the story in ***Negative Burn #4*** is set in 1923 in Rosewood, Florida; it's about the last big KKK uprising in the South. The story is set in a small black community; one of the men in that town is accused of raping a white woman from a nearby town. The KKK from that area—from the entire Southeast, in fact—came in and burned the town down... they wiped it off the map. You can't find much in the history books about things like that; I want to make sure that people remember, though.

For the most part, Kilroy remains an observer, but he acts when he feels like it's needed, to save an innocent life. He'll be there as an observer and a participant.

I'll also be doing Kilroy short stories here and there in ***Negative Burn.*** The sixth issue has a Kilroy cover by Mike Kaluta which was originally going to appear in the ***Kilroy*** series, but I decided to use it now in ***Negative Burn***; that story will be illustrated by Ken Meyer, Jr. He's done a lot of work in the gaming industry, for games like ***Vampire*** from White Wolf; he's also had a story in ***Cry For Dawn.*** He'll be doing another short story later on in the series.

Will Kilroy still appear in its own series?

Guy Burwell and Tim Bradstreet, the artists who did the story for ***Negative Burn #1,*** will be doing the series, too—or at least the first three issues of the series. As it stands right now, it'll probably be the spring before it comes out. Bradstreet's pretty busy all the time, so it'll take him a while to finish the book up.

BEHEADING
THE MOON, A NAKED SCIMITAR,
UPON A BLACK SILK CUSHION,
GHOSTLY HUGE HANGS THREATENING DOWN
THROUGH NIGHT AS DARK AS WOE.
P. CRAIG RUSSELL © 1992
PIERROT, WHO PACES ABOUT IN PANIC,
STARES UP AND FEELS THE CLUTCH OF DEATH
AT SIGHT OF MOON,
A NAKED SCIMITAR ON A BLACK SILK CUSHION.
KNEES ATREMBLE, QUAKING, SHAKING HE FALLS INTO A FAINT OF FRIGHT,
CONVINCED IT'S SLASHING DOWN ALREADY ON HIS GUILTY SINFUL NECK
THE NAKED SCIMITAR
™ &©1992 P. Craig Russell

There's also a ***Kilroy #0*** in the works; it'll be done by D. Alexander Gregory, who will be doing a ***Predator*** series in ***Dark Horse Comics*** pretty soon—December, I think—and Andrew Robinson, who just did **The Chairman** for ***Dark Horse Presents. Kilroy #0*** is going to be a regular issue—it won't be one of these deals where you have to mail in coupons or anything like that. It's a zero issue, basically, because we the art team was changing, and instead of putting one art team on number one and then change teams for the second issue, I decided to do the zero issue and have Burwell and Bradstreet handle the art beginning with the first issue.

Do you have anything else in the works?

I'm working on some other projects right now, but I don't have a publisher for them yet. I have a project called ***Pandora's Box,*** which I'm co-writing with Malcolm Bourne; it'll be illustrated by Will Simpson, who did some issues of ***Hellblazer.*** It's basically the Pandora's legend brought into the present-day world. Pandora exists in today's world; she has amnesia, and she ends up travelling around the world, from Atlantic City to Colombia to Scotland to Greece, where she finally figures out who she is. Along the way, she meets legendary figures like Prometheus. Like Kilroy, Pandora's Box gives me a chance to go around the world, exploring human suffering.

Do you have a wish list of people you'd eventually like to work with—in Negative Burn, perhaps?

If I could build a wish list of contributors for ***Negative Burn,*** Alan Moore would be at the top of the list; I'd love to include an Alan Moore story. I'm working on Dave Sim right now, but I haven't gotten him yet; he's one of my favorites, so I'd love to include one of his stories. I want David Mazzuchelli, and he's said that he's interested, but nothing's come out of it yet. There are lots of others, more than I can name here—and I'm hoping sooner or later I'll be able to get most of them in the book.

Unhealthy Health Food

With the controversies surrounding chemical additives, pesticides, and preservatives, more and more people are going the health-food route. But what happens when a health food store begins selling its customers herbal concoctions that may be tainted—and lethal? That's when Icon and rocket enter into the picture. In ***Icon #7,*** guest-written by *Sarah E. Byam* and illustrated by *Ron Wilson,* Icon and Rocket discover that problems with tainted foods and herbs can actually be more difficult to straighten out than your everyday criminal showdown—particularly when a government "regulatory" agency gets involved. ***Icon #7*** is scheduled for September 23rd release.

Junker's Taking Out the Trash

Larry Dennehy faced quite a letdown when he left his chosen career as a cop to become a glorified garbage man who answered to the nickname "Junker." When a salvage operation took him to a backwater planet, though, he discovered that old habits die hard: soon the screams of an old woman under attack drew him into a world of political intrigue, high-stakes smuggling, and near-certain death.

Junker is a four-issue limited series written by *Michael Fleisher* and illustrated by *John Ridgeway*. Each issue features fully painted color in a deluxe-format book being made available in the US for the first time. ***Junker #1,*** a $2.95 Fleetway-Quality comic featuring a cover by *Rich Larson,* is slated for late September release.

Viz Offers *Sanctuary* For Four More Months

When ***Sanctuary Part Two*** began publication, it was envisioned as a five-issue limited series—but those plans have changed, and now the second ***Sanctuary*** storyline will run for nine issues. The extension will allow Viz to include a controversial storyline focusing on US-Japanese trade problems. "We felt putting the series in hiatus at the end of ***Sanctuary Part Two #5*** while we prepared production of ***Part Three*** would be too distracting to the continuity of the plot," Viz editor *Satoru Fujii* said. "The four new issues that are being added to ***Part Two*** are extremely absorbing, and I believe that Sanctuary fans will be very happy about the continuance."

The new storyline, which begins in early October, has junior congressman Asami trying to persuade an American congressman to stop pressuring Japan to purchase more American cars. "This extraordinary series reveals a certain depth and understanding of socio-political issues that is unlikely to be found in any other comic book, Japanese or American," series translator *Matt Thorn* said. ***Sanctuary Part Two #6,*** an 80-page comic, is priced at $4.95.

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SIEGE OF DARKNESS
THE END OF THE WORLD CONTINUES IN NOVEMBER

MARVEL HOT PICKS

CAPTAIN AMERICA #423!
In this prequel to the INVADERS, Namor threatens to kill the president of the United States! Can Cap stop him in time?

HAWKEYE #1!
In this hard-hitting limited series, Hawk dispenses his own special brand of justice. Check out the dynamic artwork by Scott Kolins!

DAREDEVIL #324!
The penultimate chapter of "Fall From Grace" is loaded with action! It also leads into the monumental DAREDEVIL #325 next month!

WARHIDE #1!
Marvel UK's WARHIDE premieres with a cover enhanced with silver ink! Be warned—this book is not for the squeamish!

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Sachs & Violens™ & © 1993 Peter David & George Perez

SACHS & VIOLENS #3!
This issue contains bound-in trading cards, with information on how you can win a rare metallic cover version of SACHS & VIOLENS #1! Sorry, Kids—this series is for mature readers only!

NOMAD #21!
The Man-Thing guest stars! Check out guest writer Neil Hansen's take on this book. He's fresh off Epic's brutal UNTAMED!

MARVEL COMICS

MARVEL COMICS SHIPPING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2ND

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